

3rd ANNUAL WRIGHT MEMORIAL MEET

The third annual Wright Memorial Glider Meet, held at Dayton, Ohio, under the auspices of AFA's Dayton Squadron No. One, came close to being rained out again this year over the war Memorial Day weekend.

In the final burst of fair weather which marked the end of the four-day meet Robert Heys, a Dayton sailplane pilot, topped old altitude records to walk off with top honors. With 3600 points to his credit Heys, a member of the Dayton Soaring Society, was named Grand Champion and won the coveted Lane Trophy. The trophy is awarded annually by the Lane Jewelry Company of Dayton to the entrant amassing the greatest number of points in the individual events of the meet. In winning top place Heys nosed out Lt. Col. Floyd Sweet who had garnered 3400 points in various events. Sweet is president of the Dayton Soaring Society, which this year cooperated with the Dayton AFA Squadron in putting on the events.

In the Absolute Altitude event sponsored by Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corporation, Heys reached a new high of 7400 feet to upset the record of 6,100 feet set last year by Paul Bikle. In the altitude contest sponsored by the Boeing Airplane Company—for altitude gained after release from tow plane—Heys set a new 5000 foot mark to wipe out Bikle's 1950 record high of 4800 feet.

Paul Bikle won the Ryan Industries Paper Strafing contest by cutting the streamer twice in a new time of 9.8 seconds, toppling his own old record of 11.7 seconds.

The Service Distributing Company sponsored Spot Landing was taken by Floyd Sweet when he came within 11 inches of the pylon.

Douglas Bomb Drop winner was Bill Stevenson of Dayton. His new record of coming within 10 feet of the bullseye was considerably better than the 44 foot 8 inch record set by Purdue University Glider Club entrants in 1950.

The Helene Curtis Endurance Soaring trophy went to Rudy Opitz, Dayton, who stayed aloft 5 hours and 15 minutes.

The distance event was won by Chuck Kohls of Detroit who covered 89 miles in an attempt to reach Toledo. Kohls landed at Findlay, Ohio, while Rudy Opitz, also trying for the Toledo mark, came down at Bellefontaine, Ohio. Bill Coverdale of Chattanooga, Tennessee and Chuck Kohls had flown 73 miles the day before. Both landed at Falmouth, Kentucky.

Twenty-two pilots and nine sailplanes were entered in this year's meet. The four-day event included 69 official flights and totaled 47 hours of soaring time. Jon D. Carsey, president of the Soaring Society of America, was among the observers who attended this year's events.

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Bob Heys, (left) 1951 Grand Champion of the Wright Memorial Glider Meet sponsored by AFA's Dayton Squadron No. 1, gets the Lane Trophy from Ruth McBride, co-queen of this year's event. At right is Dr. Jerome H. Meyer, Chairman of the meet.



Lt. Col. Floyd Sweet (left), winner of the spot landing contest, is congratulated by Jon Carsey (middle), Pres. of SSA, and Dr. J. H. Meyer (right) Chairman of the meet.